

REMARKS

The Office Action and the prior art relied upon by the Examiner have been carefully considered. Applicant wishes to point out that on page 3, paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner mistakenly rejected claims 1-33 instead of claims 1-26 that are actually in the application as acknowledged on the coversheet of the Office Action.

The cited Walker patent relates to a system for electronically bidding tickets for various events on the internet, wherein a central controller 200 (Fig. 2) has a customer table 530 (Fig. 5c) including customer IDs and corresponding credit card numbers. Users' purchase offers are listed in the table 550 (Fig. 5d) in the central controller 200, and sellers browse purchase offers and submit acceptances of desired purchase offers to the central controller 200. When the central controller receives a purchase offer from a user, the central controller refers to the customer table 530 to find the user's credit card number and contacts the user's credit card issuer to ensure the validity of the credit card and, if valid, accepts the purchase offer and adds it to the list in the purchase offer table 550.

In response to the seller's acceptance of a purchase offer, the central controller contacts the seller's credit card issuer to ensure the validity of the seller's credit card and, if valid, the central controller notifies both parties of the binding transaction. The seller transmits original ticket number and seat information to the central controller (Fig. 7d, step 748), the latter in turn transmits them to the venue controller (Fig. 7e, step 750). The venue controller voids the ticket number and creates a new ticket number for replacement with the old one and transmits the new one to the central controller (Fig. 7f, steps 784, 786). The central controller transmits the new ticket number to the buyer (Fig. 7g, step 794, col. 14, lines 13-15) and the buyer presents the new ticket number to the venue to gain access to the desired event (Fig. 7g, step 796, col. 14, lines 16-19).

The Walker system employs electronic procedures for selling and buying tickets relying on the credibility of a buyer's credit card and a seller's credit card, but the buyer has to possess the new ticket number and present it to the venue to attend the event.

On the other hand, according to the present invention defined in each of claims 1, 3, 7, 12, 16, 18 and 19, it is prerequisite that there is provided a user's account unit which stores user's electronic rights information, and a user terminal (or portable processor)

stores an account address for accessing the corresponding account unit in which the user's electronic rights information (electronic tickets) is stored. Therefore, neither the user terminal nor the user's card has to store any information on electronic tickets including ticket number.

In claim 1, upon request by a user terminal, an issuer unit transmits a demand for issuance to a user's account unit, which returns a user ID to the issuer unit, which prepares electronic rights information including the user ID and sends the electronic rights information to the account unit, which in turn stores therein the electronic rights information. Thus, the electronic rights information issued to a user is stored in the account unit corresponding to the user but not sent to the user terminal.

In claim 3, an examiner unit obtains an account address from a portable processor (such as a card) and gains access to an account unit corresponding to the account address to request a required electronic rights information (electronic ticket) the account unit responds to send the required electronic rights information to the examiner unit, and the examiner unit examines the electronic rights information to determine if the electronic rights information is acceptable or not. Thus, the portable processor does not need to carry any information on electronic rights. Instead, the user's card (portable processor) stores an account address so that when electronic rights information (electronic ticket) is requested by an examiner unit, a ticket examiner unit can access the account unit designated by the account address and examine it to ensure there is electronic rights information required.

Although the Examiner states that the step of "transmitting an account address and a demand for issuance from a user terminal unit to an issuer unit" is shown in Fig. 5c and col. 4, lines 62-67 and described in col. 5, lines 1-4, the step of "causing the issuer unit to transmit the demand for issuance to an account unit which corresponds to the account address" is described in the Abstract and col. 7, lines 58-67 and col. 8, lines 1-62, and the other steps related to the use of an account unit are not described by the reference. The account unit belongs to a user and is accessible by those who are given the account address.

Regarding claim 2, the examiner again states that the Walker patent shows the step of "causing the issuer unit to access the account address of the user upon receiving the demand for issuance" (abstract, col. 7, lines 58-67, and col. 8, lines 1-62); the step of "causing the accessed account unit to transmit a certificate of account address which guarantees a correspondence between the account address assigned to the user and an identifier of the user of the account unit to the issuer" (col. 7, lines 58-67, col. 8, lines 1-25, electronic acceptance or certificate); and the steps of "causing the issuer unit to verify the certificate of account address" and "allowing it to use the identifier of the user contained in the certificate of account address as the user identifier upon successful verification" (Fig. 5c, col. 4, lines 62-67 and col. 5, lines 1-7). However, there is no description of using the account unit which stores a user's electronic rights information and which is accessible by using the account address. Moreover, Walker does not describe the use of an account address certificate.

By virtue of the aforementioned discussion of the reference, it should be clear that the present claims 1-26 avoid anticipation by Walker.

Anticipation requires the disclosure, in a prior art reference, of each and every limitation as set forth in the claims. *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 227 USPQ 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *Orthokinetics, Inc. v. Safety Travel Chairs, Inc.*, 1 USPQ2d 1081 (Fed. Cir. 1986); *Akzo N.V. v. U.S. International Trade Commissioner*, 1 USPQ2d 1241 (Fed. Cir. 1986). There must be no difference between the claimed invention and reference disclosure for an anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. *Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation v. Genetech, Inc.*, 18 USPQ2d 1001 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *Studiengesellschaft Kohle GmbH v. Dart Industries*, 220 USPQ 841 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

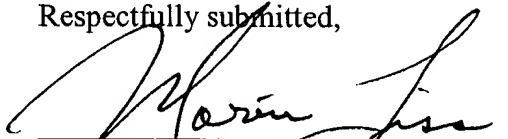
In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Morris Liss", written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

On page 1, please replace the paragraph from lines 6-13 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention relates to a treatment such as circulation of information corresponding to that which concerns the rights relating to a commercial trade or electronic information which signifies a variety of rights (hereafter referred to as electronic rights information or electronic ticket), and in particular, to a method of and an apparatus for treatment of electronic rights information which safeguard the rights information against copying or falsification while allowing a safe [stowage] storage and circulation thereof, and a recorded medium having a program recorded therein which is used to carry out the method.

On page 1, please replace the paragraph from lines 14-19 with the following amended paragraph:

Recently, attempts are in progress which are intended to provide an electronization or digitalization of rights information as contained in cash or tickets. Currently, such rights information is generally [stowed] stored in a portable medium such as an IC card or a magnetic card or managed in a concentrated manner by an issuer of rights information in the form of accounts located in a center database.

On page 1, please replace the paragraph from line 20 through page 2, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

A system [stowing] storing rights information in accounts managed by the issuer is exemplified by "e-Ticket" from "digitimini" company. In this system, an IC card which verifies the identity of a user is handed to the user upon subscription. A ticket can be reserved through Web page, and reservation information is recorded in a database maintained by the e-Ticket. The user shows his IC card when entering an auditorium, whereby a confirmation can be made if the user has previously made a reservation. Since

the IC card has no storage of reservation information, this system is characterized by the absence of any limit on the data capacity.

On page 2, please replace the paragraph from lines 2-8 with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, a system in which rights information is [stowed] stored in a portable medium is exemplified by an electronic cash system by MONDEX. In this system, electronic data which is equivalent to an amount of cash is stored in a card, which is physically carried by a user. A payment in a store can be completed by transferring the cash data stored in the card to a card of the store. This system is characterized by its ability to allow an off-line transfer of cash data without utilizing a network.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph from lines 2-10 with the following amended paragraph:

In the third instance, for the account management by the issuer, there is a problem that the management only covers those rights information issued by the issuer as a matter of course, and the [stowage] storage of other rights information is generally unavailable. A vicarious agency may issue and manage any other desired rights information without accompanying any significant technical difficulty, but its operation becomes complicated owing to the needs for a deed of contract which must be concluded between a client which desires the issuance of rights information and the vicarious agency and a payment of fees associated therewith.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph from lines 11-24 with the following amended paragraph:

On the other hand, the system in which rights information is [stowed] stored in a portable medium suffers from the problems as mentioned below. In the first instance, when issuing rights information or transferring it through a network, it is always necessary to have two portable media [of the both] connected together to the network. An access is allowed at any time for the approach [stowing] storing rights in the account,

while because the portable medium is physically carried by an individual, the system of this type is subject to the fact that time when the portable medium of the other party is connected to the network is greatly limited. Accordingly, upon issuing or transferring rights information, [the] both cards must be simultaneously put into terminals to make them in condition for use, as by communicating to each other. Accordingly, it is difficult to apply this approach for instances of use such as coupons or gift certificates which are unilaterally afforded from a transferer independently from the convenience and intent of a transferee.

On page 3, please replace the paragraph from lines 25-27 with the following amended paragraph:

In the second instance, an IC has a greatly limited capacity under the current [status of] state of the art, and accordingly, the amount of electronic rights information which can be stored is limited.

On page 4, please replace the paragraph from lines 1-10 with the following amended paragraph:

It is to be noted that in the disclosure of Japanese Patent Publication No. 27,815/1996, the electronic asset data is transferred as required from the account to a portable medium to enable a transaction, thus enabling some of the problems mentioned above to be overcome. However, it is premised that the issuer of the electronic asset data remains to be only the bank which manages the account, and thus there cannot be provided an account where a variety of rights information issued by a number of issuers can be managed. There also remains a problem that it is difficult to control a range of circulation which varies from one rights variety to another and a verification of qualification of a ticket examiner.

On page 6, please replace the paragraph from lines 7-8 with the following amended paragraph:

causing the account unit to derive the demanded electronic rights information and to transmit to the ticket examiner unit;[;]

On page 9, please replace the paragraph from line 24 through page 10, line 13, with the following amended paragraph:

The account managing center 200 is always open on a network, and a user can deposit a variety of electronic tickets which the user has obtained into an account address assigned to the user as a result of the electronic ticket system utilization contract, so that the electronic tickets can be saved in that account or any intended one of the electronic tickets saved in the account can be withdrawn for use (or consumption). An electronic ticket may be transferred into the account by the issuer unit in response to a demand for issuance of an electronic ticket delivered thereto, or another entity (individual, organization, corporation) may pay an electronic ticket such as a gift card, coupon or the like into the account address independently from the intent of a user of the account. In this manner, the transfer into each account does not require a key of the recipient, and anybody who knows the account number can transfer an electronic ticket into it. However, the transfer to another and/or consumption of an electronic ticket which is [stowed] stored at the account address is allowed only when the owner of the account has loaded his portable processor 400 into the user terminal unit 300 or the ticket examiner units 500.

On page 12, please replace the paragraph from lines 13-17 with the following amended paragraph:

(b) when transferring or consuming the electronic ticket, the electronic ticket can be transferred with all [of] past certificates of transfer and/or consumption with signature which have been attached to the electronic ticket as an attachment to the electronic ticket, thus allowing a profiteer to be pursued in the event of an illicit use.

On page 23, please replace the paragraph from lines 22-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Step 2001: The terminal controller 302 demands the account controller 202 of the account unit 210A to show a list of electronic tickets information which is [stowed] stored in the storage 212.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph from lines 7-9 with the following amended paragraph:

Step 3307: If the circulation condition is agreed with, the electronic ticket is [stowed] stored in the storage 204 and the result of verification is communicated to the issuer unit.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph from lines 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

Step 3308: The electronic ticket is [stowed] stored in the storage 204 and the treatment is terminated.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph from lines 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

In the described embodiment, an electronic ticket is [stowed] stored in an account unit on a network. However, an electronic ticket [stowed] stored in an equivalent account unit may be downloaded into a portable account unit, and the account unit in which the electronic ticket is [stowed] stored may be physically carried by a user together with a portable processor, whereby the ticket examination may be performed in exactly the same manner as in the present embodiment for an off-line ticket examiner unit which is not provided with an equipment for connection with an account unit on the network, by allowing the portable account unit to be connected when the ticket examination is to be made. In this instance, the account unit and the portable processor may be located within one physical unit.

On page 31, please replace the paragraph from lines 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

Each ticket examiner unit can access an account unit on the network and thus the user is not required to [stow] store the electronic ticket body in his portable processor, but can access his account unit through the ticket examiner unit where the user has moved, thus consuming the electronic ticket.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) A method of processing a consumption treatment of electronic rights information in a rights information processing system in which a user terminal unit, an account unit and a ticket examiner unit are interconnected on a communication network, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting an account address which is derived from a portable processor to a ticket examiner unit;

(b) causing the ticket examiner unit to be connected with an account unit at the account address to demand necessary electronic rights information;

(c) causing the account unit to derive the demanded electronic rights information and to transmit it to the ticket examiner unit; and

(d) causing the ticket examiner unit to verify the electronic rights information to render a decision whether [a ticket examination is to be enabled or disabled] the electronic rights information should be passed for a ticket examination or not.

6. (Amended) A method according to any one of Claims 3, 4, and 5 [Claim 3, 4 or 5] in which the step (d) comprises verifying a circulation condition on the user side for the received electronic rights information, and using a result of such verification [in rendering a decision to enable or disable the ticket examination] for deciding whether the electronic rights information should be passed for ticket examination or not.

10. (Amended) A method according to Claim 7 or 8, further [comprises] comprising the steps of;

(d-1) causing the account unit of the transferer to demand a certificate of transfer;

(d-2) causing the user terminal unit to prepare a certificate of transfer with signature and to transmit it to the account unit of the transferee through the account unit of the transferer;

(d-3) causing the account unit of the transferee to [stow] store the received certificate of transfer with signature.

13. (Amended) An account unit according to Claim 12 in which the receiving processor means comprises means responsive to a demand for transfer to transmit a certificate of account address which guarantees a correspondence relationship between the account address of an account unit and an identifier of a user of the account unit to the accessing side issuer unit, means for receiving electronic rights information from an issuer unit, and means for [stowing] storing the received electronic rights information in said [of] storage means.